



Once

Upon A
Time...

Children's Classics Retold in ASL

Grimms' Fairy Tales

**The Fisherman and His Wife
Hansel and Gretel**

Adaptations by

The Editors of DawnSignPress

Illustrations by

Patricia Pearson

BOOK THREE

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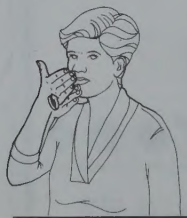
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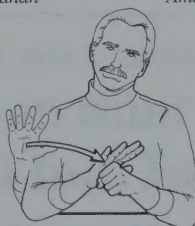
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The Fisherman and His Wife

— A —
*Grimms'
Fairy Tale*



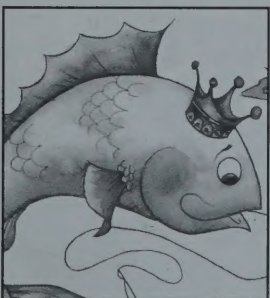
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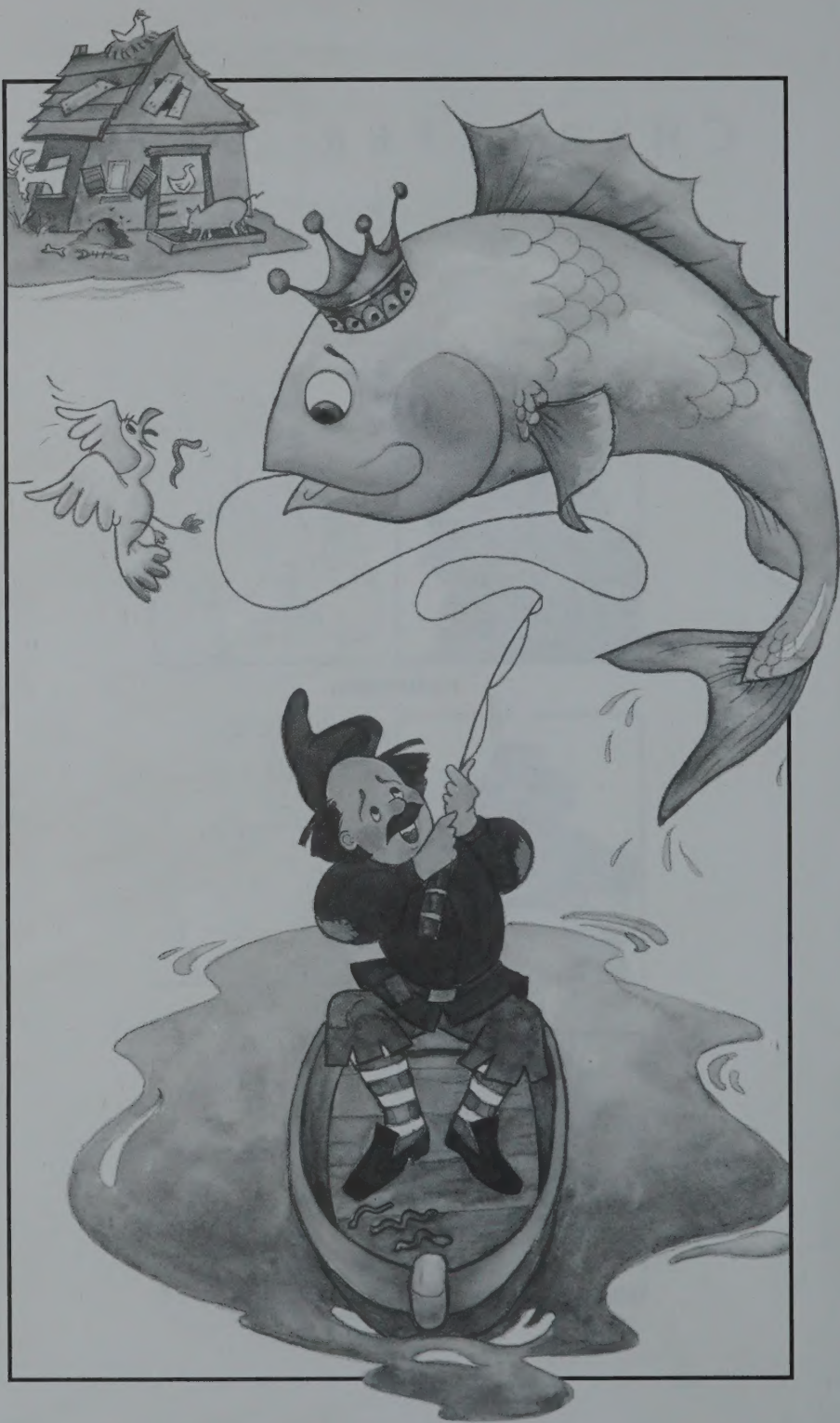
Fisherman

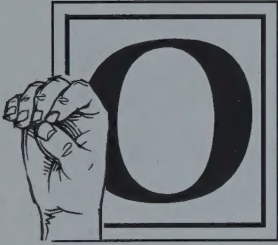


Wife



Fish





nce upon a time, there was a fisherman who went fishing everyday. He lived with his wife in a **pigsty** not far from the sea. It was a dirty old house that needed a lot of work.

One day, the fisherman was fishing in his boat. The water was very calm and smooth. He sat waiting to catch a fish. All of a sudden, he caught a big fish. He tried hard to reel it in, but the fish pulled the line. The fisherman pulled and **tugged** the line, too.

Finally, the fish came out of the water, and it started to talk. The fish said, "I am really a prince. The witch **put a magic spell** on me, and I became a fish. You do not want to eat me. Please, please throw me back into the water."

The fisherman was surprised. He looked at the fish, and he said, "You can really talk?"

"Yes, please throw me back," the fish answered.

The fisherman threw him back in the water and rowed home fast. When he got home, his wife was standing in front of the pigsty.

She asked, "You did not catch any fish again?"

The fisherman answered, "I did catch a fish, but that fish could talk. The fish asked me to put him back in the water, and I did."

"What? The fish could talk?" his wife replied.

The fisherman said, "Yes, the fish can talk! He begged me to

return him to the water. He told me that the witch put a magic spell on him and changed him from a prince into a fish."

The wife yelled, "What is wrong with you? Why didn't you ask that magic fish to give us a better house? Maybe the fish could put a magic spell on our pigsty and make it a nicer house!"

"Well..." said the fisherman.

The wife **interrupted** and said, "Get back there! Go and find the fish! Tell him we want a nicer house."

The fisherman put his **fishing pole** down and walked back to the ocean. He stood near the rock and saw that the water had changed. Before it was calm. Now it was not smooth. The color was now green and yellow.

The fisherman looked into the water and yelled, "Fish, hey. My wife **ordered** me to come back **even though** it is **against my will**."

The **fish popped out** of the water. The fisherman said, "My wife wanted me to come back here to tell you that she does not want to live in our pigsty. She wants to live in a nicer house."

The fish said, "O.K., go home. I have **already taken care of** that." The fish was gone.

The fisherman walked home, and he did not see the old pigsty. Surprised, he saw a nicer house. His wife said, "See, I told you the fish could help us."

The fisherman walked into the house and saw two beds. In the kitchen, there were a lot of food and the best pots, pans, and **utensils**. Outside in the backyard, there were plants growing with food. There was an animal shed with sheep and dogs barking. It was a wonderful change from that ugly pigsty.

The fisherman and his wife lived in the nice house for about one week. Then the wife said, "I am not satisfied! This time, I want a **castle** with huge **towers** and a **drawbridge**. That is what I want."

"Oh, come on, this house is fine. I like this new house," the fisherman told her.



The wife ordered, "Get back there! Go and find the fish. Tell him that I want a castle!"

The fisherman went back to the same rock. The water color had changed again. Now it was purple and blue, and **murky**. The fisherman yelled, "Fish, hey fish, my wife ordered me to come back here even though it is against my will."

The fish popped out of the water. The fisherman explained, "My wife wants a castle."

The fish said, "I know. I have already taken care of that."

The fisherman was impressed. He arrived home to see a huge castle with a drawbridge, and the wife said, "See, I told you the fish could help us."

The fisherman walked in and saw beautiful, **shiny marble** floors with **fancy curtains**. He saw the **servants** waiting to help and serve him. He looked around. He could not believe how beautiful the



castle was. He liked what he saw.

At dinner time, the fisherman and his wife sat down at a long table. The servants came and brought them a lot of food. The wife did not have to cook anything. The fisherman looked at his wife and asked, "What are you thinking about?"

The wife said, "I want to become a king and have a bigger castle." The fisherman said, "Come on, this castle is wonderful. I like it here. What more do you want?"

"I want to become a **king**. Would you want to become a king?" asked the wife.

"No, I do not want to be a king," the husband replied.

"Then I want to be the king," the wife responded.

So the fisherman said, "O.K., you be the king." He tried to eat his dinner. The wife **banged on** the table and told him, "Get back there. Go find the fish. Tell him that I want to become the king."



The fisherman went back to the water and stood near the rock. He saw the water color changing. It was gray and black. It was becoming more rough than before. He yelled, “Fish, hey fish, my wife ordered me to come back even though it is against my will.”

The fish popped out of the water. The fisherman explained, “Now my wife wants to become a king.”

“O.K., go back home. I have already taken care of that,” the fish said. He was gone under the water.

The fisherman walked home. He saw the **knights** sitting on their horses and the **trumpeters** blowing their **horns**. He walked inside and saw a line of people. His wife wore a **crown** on her head, sitting on a large **throne**. The fisherman saw that his wife had become the king. He could not believe it.

His wife said, “I want more. This is not enough. I want to **govern** all the people and their land.”

The fisherman said, "Come on, you are already the king."

"It is not enough. I want more," the wife ordered, "Get back there. Go and find the fish."

The fisherman walked back and saw that the water was worse. Now it was black. The water was rough, and the **waves** were high. The fisherman yelled, "Fish, hey fish! My wife ordered me to come back even though it is against my will!"

The fish popped out of the water, riding on the waves. The fisherman explained, "Now my wife wants to govern the whole land and its people."

The fish said, "I already took care of it." The fish disappeared in the water.

As the fisherman walked home, he saw more knights sitting on their horses and many more people. He walked into the big castle and saw all the different servants -- tall ones & short ones -- all lined up in a row. He saw his wife sitting on a bigger throne, and she had a bigger crown. The crown was all gold and had **diamonds**. The fisherman saw all of his wife's **assistants** talking about what to do. He thought, "Now my wife has everything. She is the **ruler** of all the land."

The fisherman asked, "Are you happy now?"

"It is all right for now," replied the wife.

That night the fisherman went to bed. The next morning, his wife woke him up and yelled, "I am not satisfied!"

The fisherman asked, "Now what do you want?"

"Now I want to become the **Pope**," answered the wife.

"You cannot!" the fisherman said, "There is only one Pope, and we already have one now. You cannot be the Pope."

The wife answered, "Get back there. Go and find the fish. Tell him I want to be the Pope."

The fisherman got up from bed and got ready. He walked back to the ocean. It was very windy, and the sky was dark. It began to rain.

The fisherman yelled, “Fish, hey fish! My wife ordered me to come back even though it is against my will.” Through the waves and the rain and the wind, the fisherman could not see the fish. He yelled, “My wife wants to become the Pope.”

“I have already taken care of that,” the fish replied and disappeared in the water.

As the fisherman walked home, he saw a big **church**. He saw many **priests** and kings lined up to see the Pope. His wife sat on her big throne. She wore a big ring that only a Pope wears. She was now the Pope!

The wife was still not happy. She wanted more! She said, “Now I want to rule the **heavens**!”

The fisherman could not believe his wife was not happy. He asked, “You want to rule the heavens? You cannot do that!”

“That is what I want!” the wife yelled.

“You want to be **God**?” the fisherman asked.

“Yes, that is exactly what I want,” cried the wife.

The fisherman was ordered to go back to the water. He walked and saw that there was a storm. The sky was black. It was **thundering** and **lightning**. The waves were higher.

The fisherman yelled, “Fish, hey fish! My wife ordered me to come back even though it is against my will.” The fisherman explained to the fish, “Now my wife wants to become God.”

The fish said, “Go back home. It has already been taken care of.”

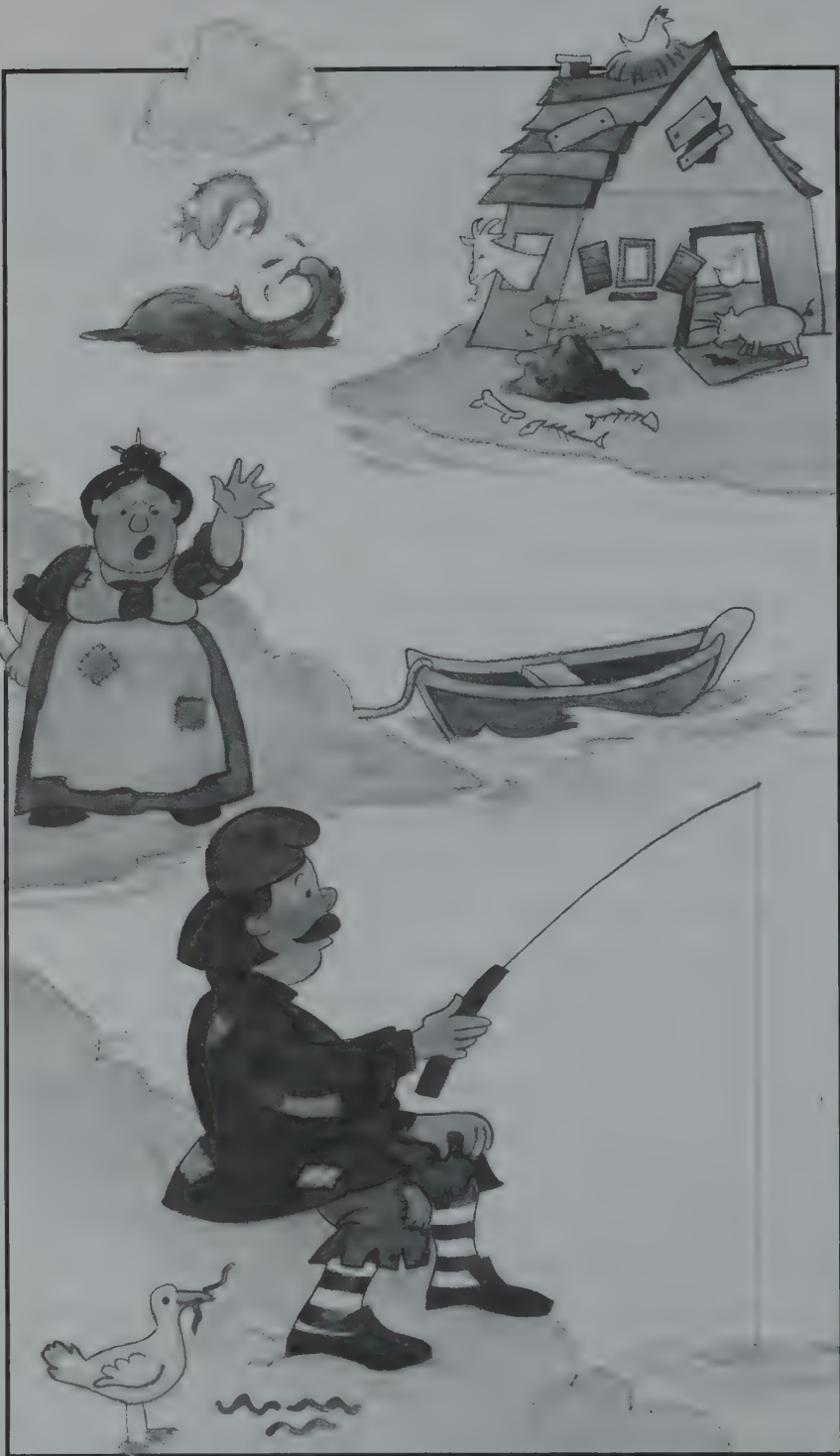
The fisherman walked back home. He saw the same old pigsty. His wife was standing in front of their old house.

The fisherman said, “Isn't that what you wanted? You wanted to be like God. This is what you get!”

That happened a long time ago. That same pigsty is still there near the ocean, and everyday, the fisherman is still fishing! 🐟

The End

ONCE UPON A TIME...

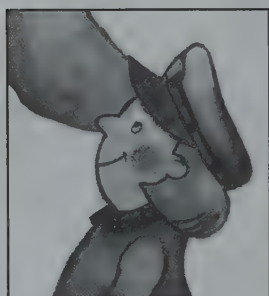


Hansel and Gretel

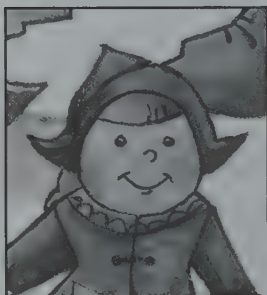
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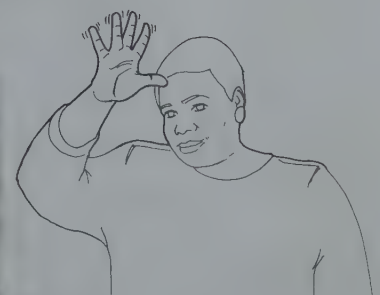
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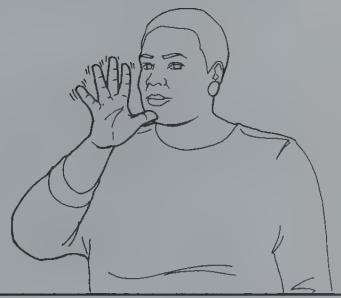
Hansel



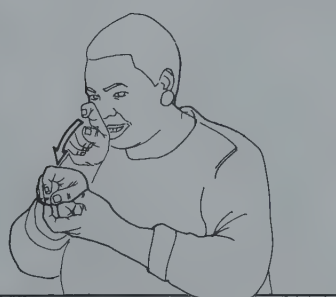
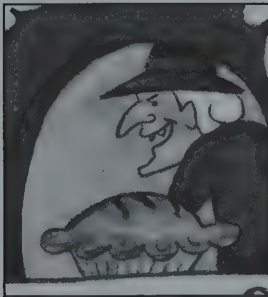
Gretel



Father

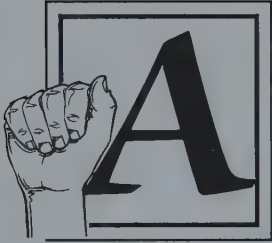


Stepmother



Witch





At the edge of a forest, a **woodcutter** lived with his wife and two children in a small house. The boy's name was Hansel, and the girl's was Gretel.

The family was very poor. They did not have much money or enough food. All they had left to eat was half a loaf of bread and some water.

One night lying in bed, the father **tossed and turned**. He was so **worried** he could not sleep. He woke his wife and asked, "What shall we do? We do not have enough food to eat. How can we feed Hansel and Gretel?"

The wife said, "Husband, listen. Let's take them out into the forest and leave them there." The father said, "No, I could not do that. They are my children. I love them."

The children's mother had died when they were very young, and the father remarried. The wife was the children's stepmother.

The stepmother said, "If we do not take them out into the forest, how will we live?" The husband was weak. He did not know how to say no to his wife.

The children were in bed, but they were not asleep. They overheard what their stepmother planned with their father. Hansel and Gretel were scared. Hansel, trying to act brave, told Gretel, "Do not worry. I will take care of you."

"I am so afraid," Gretel said.

The next morning the father and stepmother woke the two children. "Now all four of us are going out into the forest to look for wood," said the stepmother, "we will make a fire. We will sit around the fire, talk, eat our bread, and drink our water."

Hansel and Gretel knew what the stepmother was up to. But they acted as if they were excited.

The stepmother said to the father, "Now you remember. We are going to leave them out in the woods."

She told the children, "You go along and get your wood. We will go over there and look for more wood. We shall come back." The two **nodded in agreement**.

The four made their way into the forest. Hansel noticed some **shiny** stones and began to gather them. As they walked into the forest, he put them into his pocket. He would look back and drop a stone. As they walked farther, he would drop another stone.



The father looked at Hansel and asked him, “Why do you keep looking back? What is it that you are looking for?”

“Oh, I am just looking at the house. The roof looks so **glistening** with the sun shining on it. It is beautiful.”

The stepmother said, “That is not the sun. That is just the way the roof looks. Just keep walking.”

Gretel continued to walk on in fear. But Hansel kept dropping stones to make a path to find their way back.

When they reached the **depths of the forest**, the stepmother told the children, “Now you go ahead and get some more wood.” Hansel and Gretel started to pick up more wood.

Gretel was afraid, but Hansel said, “Do not worry. I am here. I will take care of you.”

The parents had already left the forest and gone home. The children continued to gather wood. They sat there and waited. Their parents never came back.

Hansel told Gretel, “Let’s go home now.”

“How? We are lost!” said Gretel.

“Do not worry. We can find our way home because I dropped stones on the way out here. When the moon comes out, it will shine on the stones. We can follow the path,” Hansel told Gretel. They followed the **shimmering** stones home.

When they entered the house, the stepmother was surprised. “Where have you been? We have been looking for you. Where were you?” **scolded** the stepmother.

But the father hugged his children and said, “I was worried about you. How are you?”

“Oh, we are fine,” said the children. The four of them went straight to bed that night.

The stepmother wondered how they had found their way home. She said to her husband, “Next time, we will take them deeper into the forest where they can not find their way back.” The father did



not know how to say no. He would just follow whatever his wife said to do, although he loved his children.

The next morning the stepmother reminded them, “Now again, we are going out into the forest to find more wood. We will all sit around the fire, and we shall eat our bread.”

The children knew what she was up to. The parents told their children, “We shall be back. You children go ahead and build your fire. We are going to get more bread.”

The children looked **pleadingly** at the parents because they knew what was going to happen. They ate their bread. The fire warmed them and **lulled them to sleep**.

In the morning, the fire had gone out. They looked and looked around for their parents.

“Where are they?” cried Gretel.

Hansel said, “Do not worry. As we walked out into the forest, I



dropped bread crumbs making a trail for us to follow back home. The sun will shine, and we shall be able to find our way home.”

The children got up and began to look for the bread, but the bread was gone. The thousands of birds, who lived in the forest, had come and eaten up all of the bread crumbs. How would they get home? There were no bread crumbs to follow. They did not know the way.

They began to walk through the forest. The branches of the trees brushed against their faces, and they **wandered** deeper and farther into the forest. They were lost! Gretel began to cry. Again, Hansel tried to **comfort** her. Gretel was really **terrified**. Hansel repeated that he would get them home.

They were deep in the forest when they noticed a house. It was made of cookies, candies, lollipops, and ice cream. They became excited. They had not eaten in a long time. They ran to the house, grabbed a piece of the sweets, and started to eat. And they ate!



Inside the house lived an **evil** witch. She could not wait for them to fall asleep so she could eat them.

The children kept eating the cookie house. The witch acted as if she were a kind lady and asked, "Oh, children, are you lost?"

"Yes," Gretel and Hansel said, "we are lost. We cannot find our way back home."

She said, "Oh, do not worry. I have plenty of food -- so much food you can eat whatever and whenever you want."

They were so excited, thanked her, and continued to stuff themselves with the **goodies**.

Suddenly, the witch **cackled in glee** and grabbed Hansel. She **thrust** him into a cage.

Gretel cried, "Let him out!" Gretel tried to stop the witch from locking Hansel up in the cage.

The witch **shoved** Gretel away and **ordered**, "Gretel, get to work.

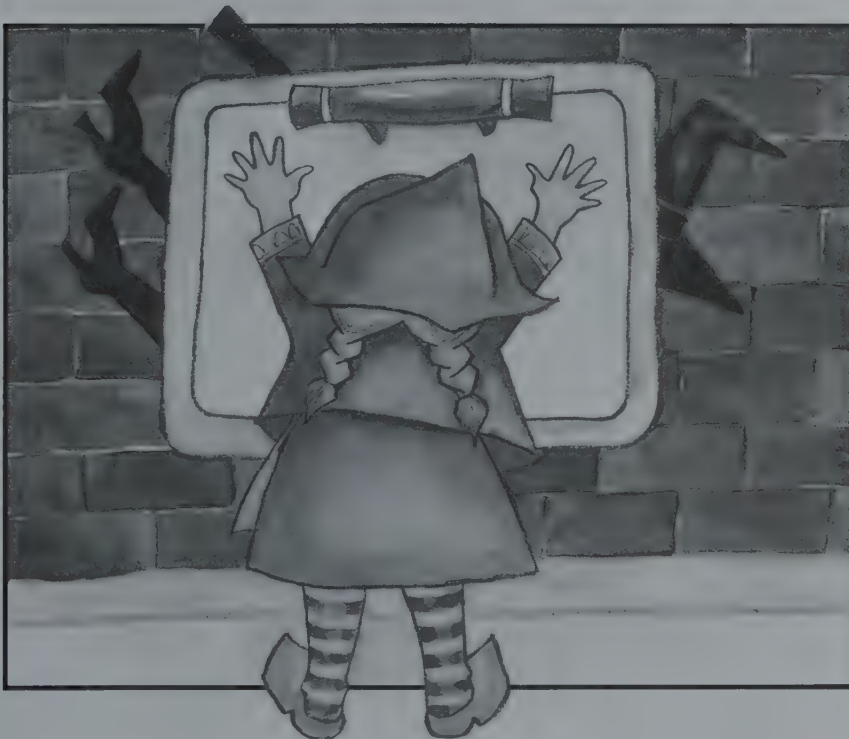
Cook something for Hansel and for me.” Gretel was crying and did not know what to do. Hansel told Gretel that he was all right. Gretel went to work and cooked. She served the witch and Hansel.

The witch had been blinded by a fire and could not see. But she could still hear Hansel behind the bars while Gretel was cooking. The witch gave orders to Gretel and said, “I am going to fatten up Hansel and eat him.”

Now, Hansel was a bright boy. When the witch went to feel his arm to see if he was getting fat, Hansel gave her a bone to feel. The witch would feel it and say, “Too **skinny**. He needs to eat more food.” She ordered Gretel to cook more food for Hansel.

Gretel continued to cook more food for him. She served him, and Hansel ate well. He enjoyed the food, but he always saved some for his sister, Gretel.

Everytime the witch wanted to see how fat he was getting, Hansel held out a bone to feel. The witch would say, “Too thin. Not enough



food. He must eat more.”

One day, as Gretel was cooking, she came up with an idea. “The stove is not working. It is not hot enough. I do not know how to fix it.” Gretel **complained** to the witch.

The witch said, “What a stupid girl. Let me show you.” She opened the stove door. “It is hot. You must enter it to make sure it is working well.” When the witch leaned into the stove, Gretel pushed the witch in, slammed the door, and locked her in.

Gretel ran to Hansel’s cage and **unlatched** it. They were free! They ran very fast through the woods. They were still lost.

Gretel started to cry, “We are lost again.”

“Do not worry,” said Hansel.

Nearby, there was a **stream**. In the stream there was a duck paddling in the water. The duck quacked to the children. Hansel guessed, “He must want us to follow. Maybe he is going to help us. Let us hope so.”

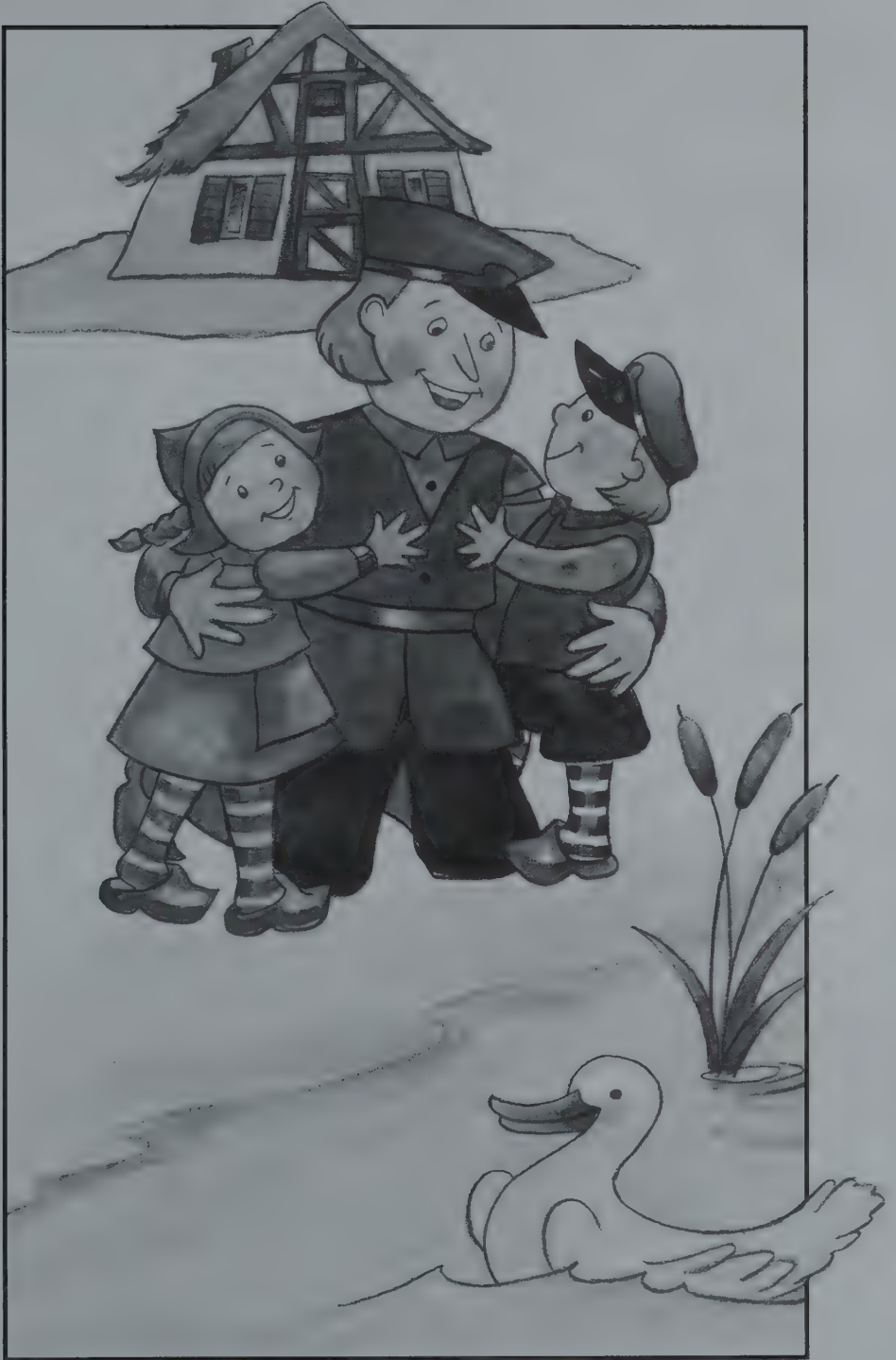
The duck continued to paddle down the stream, and the children followed. They went over the stream, and they were home!

The father was **thrilled** to see his children. He gave them a big hug. Hansel and Gretel looked and asked, “Where is your wife?”

“She is dead. She was sick for a long time,” said the father.

The children were so happy to see their father. They gave him a big hug and many kisses. 🐣

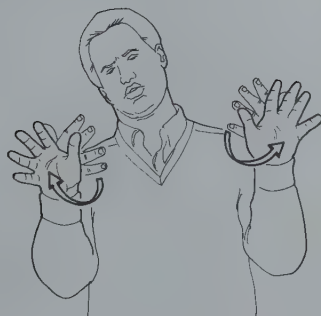
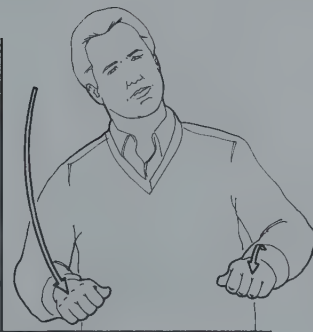
The
End



GLOSSARY



against my will



already taken care of



assistants



banged on



cackled in glee



castle



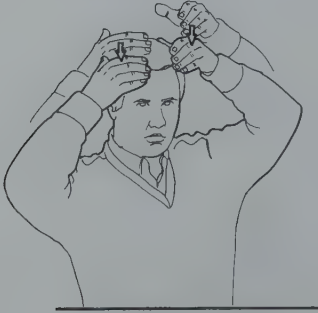
church



comfort



complained



crown



curtains



depths of the forest



diamonds



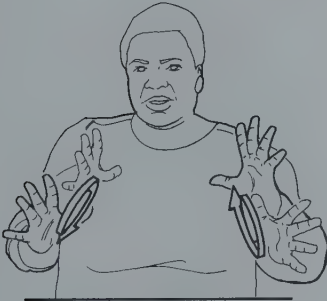
drawbridge



even though



evil



fancy



fish popped out

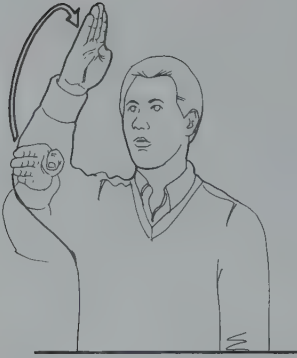


fishing pole

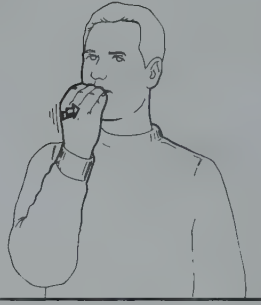


glistening

Glossary



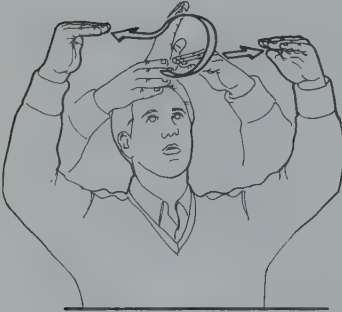
God



goodies



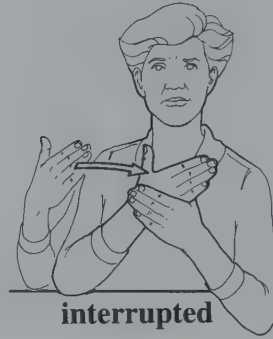
govern



heavens



horns



interrupted



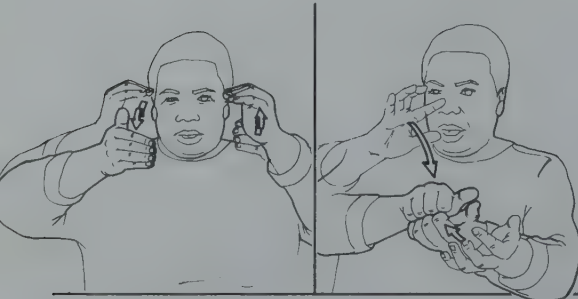
king



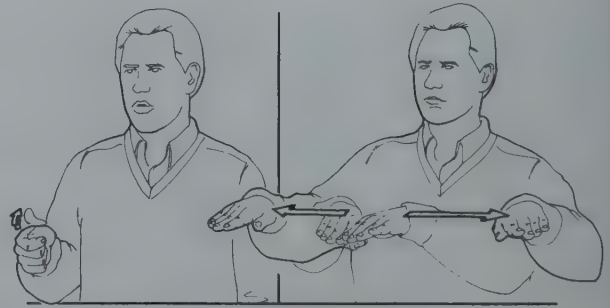
knights



lightning

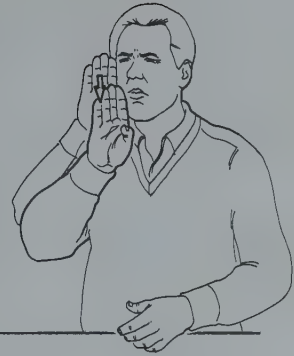


lulled them to sleep

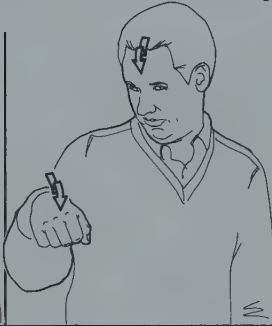
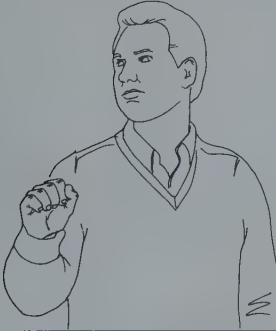


marble

Glossary



murky



noddled in agreement



ordered



pigsty



pleadingly



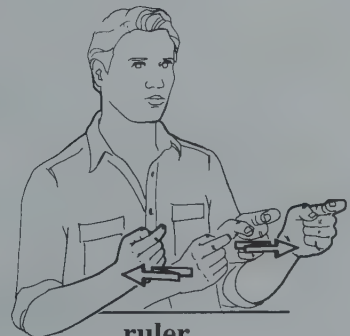
Pope



priests



put a magic spell

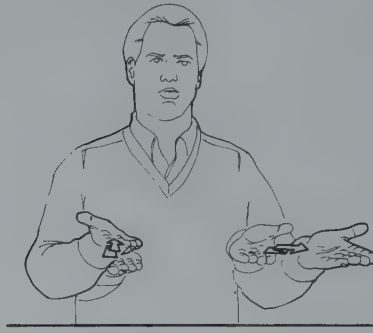


ruler

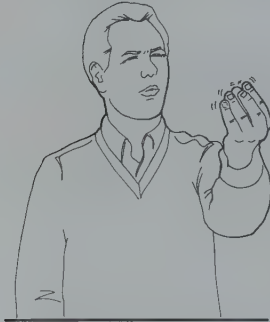
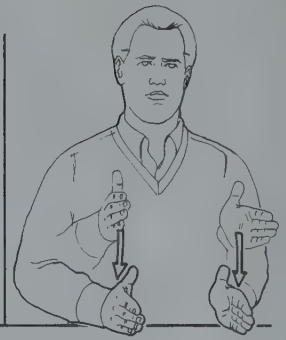
Glossary



scolded



servants



shimmering



shiny



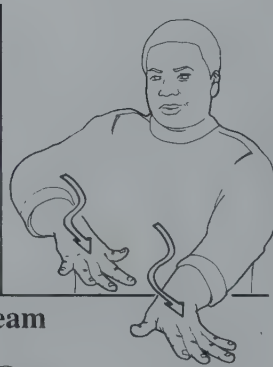
shoved



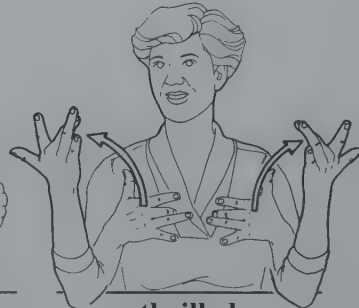
skinny



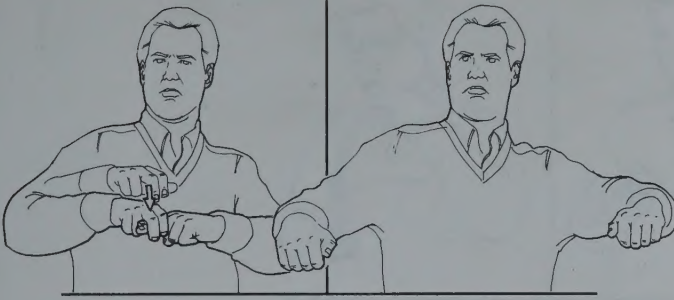
stream



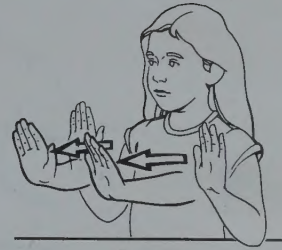
terrified



thrilled



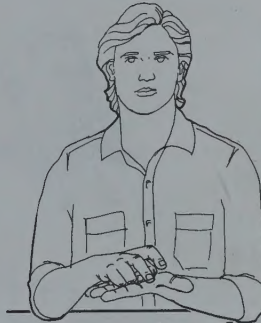
throne



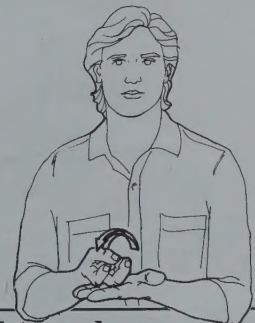
thrust



thundering



tossed and turned



towers



trumpeters



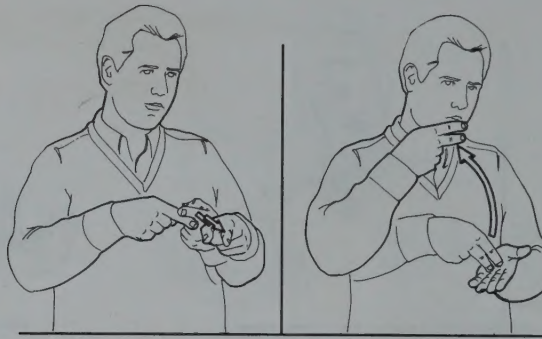
tugged



unlatched



Glossary



utensils



wandered



waves



woodcutter

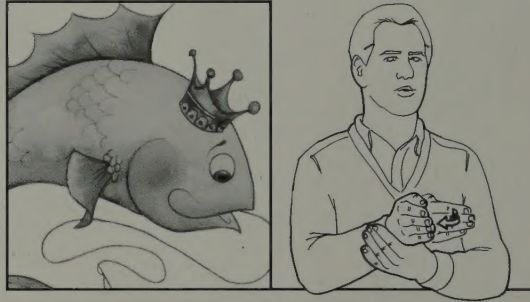


worried

Grimms' Fairy Tales

The Fisherman and His Wife Hansel and Gretel

These are original American Sign Language adaptations of a beloved children's classic. Favorite fairy tales are recited in ASL on videotape and adapted into English in this illustrated storybook, including a unique glossary and a list of character signs.



Fish

The series, *Once Upon A Time... Children's Classics Retold in American Sign Language*, is a creative response to the ever-increasing demand for ASL-English materials. It combines the visual excitement of ASL storytelling with enchanting literature, in a new format sure to captivate both children and adults.


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